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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

May 21, 2002

Reply To
Attn Of ORC-158

Richard Du Bey
Short Cressman & Burgess
999 Third Avenue, Suite 3000
Seattle, Washington 98104-4088

Re: Analytical Data from the Columbia River Basin in Canada

Dear Richard:

Region 10 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received your May 8, 2002 correspondence transmitting analytical results of sampling performed in the Columbia River Basin by a Canadian consultant engaged by one of the Colville Confederated Tribes' (CCT) primary technical consultants. EPA understands that the Tribes are presenting this information to EPA in furtherance of their government-to-government relationship with EPA.

As you are aware, EPA is currently engaged in discussions with the government of Canada regarding EPA's request to obtain sediment samples from Lower Arrow Lake in Castlegar, BC. The purpose of these sediment samples is to establish "background" concentrations for the EPA's ongoing investigation of hazardous substance contamination along the U.S. portion of the upper Columbia River in northeast Washington. The Region is awaiting a response to its request, but is also continuing to consider all possible options in establishing "background" concentrations. Some of the data included in the enclosure to your transmittal of May 8, 2002 may be useful to EPA in establishing "background" concentrations. However, in order to help evaluate the quality and usability of the data, EPA needs to obtain information that you have already collected related to the sampling and analysis effort performed. Enclosed is a list of the information EPA would like to receive in order to proceed with the data review and validation process.

Also, we want to inform the Tribes that the Canadian federal government requested that EPA share the data submitted by you on May 8, and that we have provided the information to them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 553-0016.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McKenna
Assistant Regional Counsel

Enclosure



Paper

cc: Pete Christich, EPA Headquarters, Office of International Activities
Melissa Peffers, EPA Region 10, Office of External Affairs

Enclosure

1. A citation to the methods used for all analyses, such as an ASTM method, an EPA Method, or equivalent Canadian or other standard method;
2. All existing raw laboratory data that were used to generate the reported results. This includes but is not limited to:
 - sample receipt documentation/chain-of-custody forms
 - sample preparation logs or forms
 - instrument printouts for the analyses
 - quality control sample data (preparation & analyses information) such as spikes, blanks, or replicate analyses
 - instrument analytical sequence documentation (injection logs)
 - analytical standard and spike preparation information
 - analyst notes regarding the analyses performed, etc.

Additional detailed information on raw laboratory documentation can be found in the U.S. EPA Contract Laboratory Program Statement of Work for Analysis of Inorganic Analysis, Multi-media, Multi-Concentration (ILM04.0), Exhibit B, pp B-5 to B-14.

The Statement of Work available on the Internet at

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/clp/inorg.htm>

3. Sample container type(s);
4. Protocol followed for collection of rinsate sample(s);
5. Location information for each sample collected, i.e., GPS coordinates and appropriate map datum;
6. Sample location map(s);
7. Sampling logs/logbook(s);
8. Photos and photo log(s);
9. Sample Alteration Forms or documentation of any deviation from the Sampling and Quality Assurance Plan; and
10. Temperature of cooler(s) as recorded by the laboratory.